

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

AREI UPDATES: Foreign Landownership

Updates on Agricultural Resources and Environmental Indicators

Natural Resources and Environment Division
Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

1995
Number 8

Foreign Ownership of U.S. Agricultural Land in 1994

- Foreign individuals and entities owned 6.6 million acres of U.S. agricultural land at the end of 1994, and U.S. corporations that are 10 percent or more foreign controlled owned another 7.4 million acres.
- The 14.1-million-acre total is down slightly from 1993, about 4 percent, and represents about 1 percent of privately owned farm and forest land.
- Forest land accounted for 47 percent of the foreign owned or partially owned acreage, cropland 18 percent, and pasture and other land 35 percent.

This issue of AREI UPDATES summarizes data from Foreign Ownership of U.S. Agricultural Land Through December 31, 1994, Statistical Bulletin No. 919, U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., June 1995, prepared under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (AFIDA).

AFIDA required all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture as of February 1, 1979. Subsequent acquisitions and dispositions of such lands are reported to the Secretary as

they occur. This provides the Department with a continuing inventory of such ownership that is netted out at the end of each calendar year and reported to the President and the Congress.

Foreign persons from Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands Antilles, and the British Virgin Islands account for 67 percent of the foreign-held acreage, and those from Japan 3 percent (table 1).

Corporations own 71 percent of the acreage; partnerships, 21 percent; individuals, 6 percent; and others, 2 percent.

The largest number of acres owned by foreign persons was reported in Maine (table 2), accounting for 11 percent of Maine's privately owned agricultural land, and 15 percent of all the reported foreign-owned land nationwide.

Ninety-four percent of the foreign-owned acreage will remain in agricultural production, according to the foreign owners. No change in tenure was reported for 45 percent of the acres, while some change was planned for 31 percent of the acres.

Contact: J. Peter DeBraal, NRED, (202) 219-1011.

About AREI UPDATES

AREI UPDATES is a periodic series which supplements and updates information in **Agricultural Resources and Environmental Indicators (AREI)**, USDA, ERS, AH-705, Dec. 1994. UPDATES report recent data from surveys of farm operators and others knowledgeable about changing agricultural resource use and conditions, with only minimal interpretation or analysis. Please contact the individual listed at the end of the text for additional information about the data in this UPDATE. If you would like to be added to the mailing list or have other questions about AREI UPDATES or AREI, contact Richard Magleby, (202) 219-0436.

Trends in Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Land by Type of Use, 1981-94

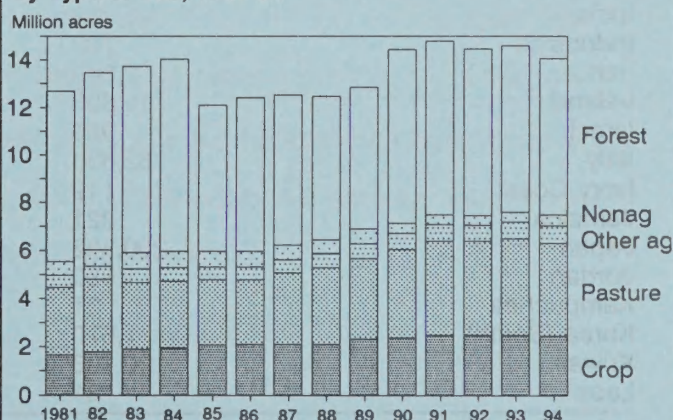


Table 1--U.S. agricultural landholdings by country of foreign owner, December 31, 1994

Country	Acres	Country	Acres
	Number		Number
Interests excluding U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders			
Argentina	13,405	Lebanon	12,604
Australia	6,137	Liberia	29,632
Austria	57,312	Liechtenstein	135,249
Bahamas	36,126	Luxembourg	3,109
Bahrain	313	Malaysia	7,948
Barbados	117	Mexico	178,736
Belgium	65,526	Morocco	1,035
Belize	549	Namibia	197
Bermuda	73,643	Netherlands	112,292
Bolivia	11	Netherlands Antilles	356,837
Brazil	10,081	New Zealand	13,587
British Virgin Islands	124,975	Nicaragua	1,378
Canada	1,572,107	Norway	5,073
Cayman Islands	40,635	Oman	454
Chile	2,074	Pakistan	982
China	935	Panama	121,649
Colombia	11,414	Peru	308
Costa Rica	13,835	Philippines	3,816
Croatia	1,023	Poland	147
Cuba	58	Portugal	4,146
Czech Republic	347	Russia	761
Denmark	12,948	St. Vincent	2,637
Dominican Republic	2,108	Saudi Arabia	31,553
Ecuador	971	Singapore	504
Egypt	2,076	Somalia	11
El Salvador	128	South Africa	2,673
Finland	22	Spain	3,890
France	128,202	Sweden	54,549
Gambia	294	Switzerland	291,392
Germany	758,844	Syria	2,689
Greece	60,491	Taiwan	7,899
Guatemala	1,102	Tanzania	10,143
Guyana	35	Thailand	1,835
Honduras	1,018	Trinidad & Tobago	94
Hong Kong	14,741	Turkey	38
Hungary	103	Turks Island	3,192
India	1,734	United Arab Emirates	4,080
Indonesia	752	United Kingdom	1,734,467
Iran	2,343	Uruguay	10,807
Ireland	10,508	Venezuela	22,610
Israel	951	Vietnam	152
Italy	82,633	Zimbabwe	230
Ivory Coast	119	Multiple 1/	54,145
Jamaica	321	Third tier 2/	65,887
Japan	200,302		
Jordan	1,580		
Kampuchea	31		
Korea (South)	1,570		
Kuwait	20,188		
Laos	31	Subtotal 3/	6,632,186

See footnotes at end of table.

Continued-

Source: USDA, ERS, Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act data.

Table 1--U.S. agricultural landholdings by country of foreign owner, December 31, 1994--Continued

Country	Acres	Country	Acres
	Number		Number
U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders			
US/Andorra	3,741	US/Lebanon	703
US/Argentina	4,056	US/Liberia	26,733
US/Australia	5,030	US/Libyan Arab Republic	280
US/Austria	23,091	US/Liechtenstein	99,365
US/Bahamas	61,496	US/Luxembourg	234,551
US/Barbados	41	US/Malaysia	300
US/Belgium	88,484	US/Malta	500
US/Bermuda	38,264	US/Mexico	252,485
US/Brazil	14,400	US/Netherlands	363,882
US/Brit. Virgin Islands	423,636	US/Netherlands Antilles	212,250
US/Canada	1,687,398	US/New Hebrides	883
US/Cayman Islands	12,528	US/New Zealand	50,455
US/Chile	9,929	US/Nicaragua	282
US/China	15,589	US/Norway	9,709
US/Colombia	10,154	US/Panama	151,798
US/Costa Rica	407	US/Paraguay	236
US/Denmark	7,917	US/Peru	1,696
US/Dominican Republic	589	US/Philippines	7,793
US/Ecuador	1,632	US/Portugal	1,683
US/Egypt	959	US/Qatar	219
US/El Salvador	607	US/Saudi Arabia	10,648
US/Finland	2,212	US/Singapore	73
US/France	271,571	US/South Africa	2,733
US/Germany	867,626	US/Spain	4,574
US/Greece	5,249	US/Sweden	4,094
US/Guatemala	412	US/Switzerland	323,510
US/Guyana	334	US/Taiwan	18,207
US/Honduras	37	US/Thailand	252
US/Hong Kong	131,139	US/Trinidad & Tobago	20
US/Indonesia	644	US/Turkey	443
US/Iran	1,861	US/United Arab Emirates	3,443
US/Iraq	800	US/United Kingdom	1,024,718
US/Ireland	1,942	US/Uruguay	618
US/Israel	414	US/Venezuela	40,182
US/Italy	23,547	US/Multiple	178,177
US/Japan	284,860	US/Third Tier	387,016
US/Jordan	434		
US/Kenya	32	Subtotal 4/	7,425,988
US/Korea (South)	85		
US/Kuwait	8,330	Total all landholdings	14,058,174

1/ A report is processed as "multiple" when no single country predominates--for example, an equal partnership between a Canadian and a German.

2/ A report is processed as "third tier" if three or more levels of ownership are reported with no foreign interests stated.

3/ Total interests excluding U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders.

4/ Total interest of U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders.

Source: USDA, ERS, Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act data.

Table 2--U.S. agricultural landholdings of foreign owners, by State, December 31, 1994

State	Foreign-owned agricultural land	State	Foreign-owned agricultural land	State	Foreign-owned agricultural land
	Acres		Acres		Acres
Alabama	300,375	Louisiana	667,587	Oklahoma	58,047
Alaska	75	Maine	2,052,701	Oregon	642,812
Arizona	331,859	Maryland	51,112	Pennsylvania	91,880
Arkansas	178,928	Massachusetts	2,029	Puerto Rico	839
California	918,771	Michigan	443,377	R. Island	17
Colorado	642,309	Minnesota	221,502	S. Carolina	197,137
Connecticut	822	Mississippi	485,589	S. Dakota	42,957
Delaware	5,878	Missouri	73,790	Tennessee	82,734
Florida	621,201	Montana	476,198	Texas	1,173,564
Georgia	561,412	Nebraska	76,585	Utah	60,604
Hawaii	179,971	Nevada	285,773	Vermont	85,784
Idaho	22,375	N. Hampshire	16,451	Virginia	148,604
Illinois	203,761	New Jersey	18,366	Washington	388,439
Indiana	86,113	New Mexico	784,030	W. Virginia	167,632
Iowa	32,459	New York	275,995	Wisconsin	78,474
Kansas	67,958	N. Carolina	224,737	Wyoming	186,975
Kentucky	114,225	North Dakota	27,840		
		Ohio	199,521	Total	14,058,174

Source: USDA, ERS, Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act data.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

AREI UPDATES

Natural Resources and Environment Division
1301 New York Ave., NW., Rm. 524
Washington, DC 20005-4788

FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT NO. G-145